

EXECUTIVE ORDER

04-09

August 26, 2004

ESTABLISHING A DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, the Executive Branch directly reporting to the Governor is comprised of numerous departments and agencies that provide vital services and protection to the citizens of the State of Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, more than one hundred fifty (150) full-time equivalent positions are currently performing legal, legal support, hearing officer and legislative liaison functions within the departments of the Executive Branch; and

WHEREAS, departments, agencies and commissions are currently spending millions of dollars in legal fees per year to engage outside legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, nearly every department and agency within the Executive Branch is presently maintaining its own legal resources; and

WHEREAS, the current structure does not serve the legal needs of all of the critical areas within the Executive Branch of State government; and

WHEREAS, the current legal structure is often inefficient, promotes duplicate processes, lacks consistency, and experiences significant time delays in the delivery of legal services; and

WHEREAS, the current structure does not ensure that the most appropriate attorneys and legal staff are assigned to legal matters consistent with their background and expertise; and

WHEREAS, the current legal structure is lacking any centralized and coordinated organization; and

WHEREAS, the current legal structure does not utilize attorneys, hearing officers, paralegals, legal assistants, legislative liaisons and support staff in an efficient and effective manner; and

WHEREAS, a new centralized structure organizing the Executive Branch into legal practice groups, will provide high quality, efficient and more cost effective legal services.

WHEREAS, a consolidation of Executive Branch legal resources, under the centralized management of a new Division of Legal Services, within the Department of Administration will provide standardization of legal policies and procedures across the Executive Branch, will combine redundant activities, will result in a more effective and efficient use of legal resources within state government, and will save the Rhode Island Taxpayers money.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD L. CARCIERI, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby order as follows:

1. There shall be created within the Department of Administration, under the direction and supervision of the Chief Legal Officer, as designated by the Director of the Department of Administration ("Director"), a new Division of Legal Services. The Chief Legal Officer shall be responsible for incorporating existing agency legal resources into a new centralized legal structure.
2. The Division of Legal Services shall be responsible for establishing, managing and maintaining legal resources to support the Executive Branch departments and agencies.
3. Such attorneys, hearing officers, legislative liaisons, paralegals and legal support staff as the Director may designate from time to time shall report functionally to the Division of Legal Services.
4. All State departments and agencies shall cooperate and assist the Chief Legal Officer in the performance of his or her responsibilities pursuant to this Order.

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This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon the date hereof and shall remain in effect until rescinded.

So Ordered:

Donald L. Carcieri

Date: _____